

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

July 8, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
July 8, 2015
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, Easton Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were seven other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner the Agenda was amended by adding a new proposed Resolution for approving a grant to the Easton Area Heritage Day Committee under New Business by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Mauro, Edinger, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner the June 24, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)
Abstain: Mauro (1)

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PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

Mayor Panto introduced Dawn Ferrante, the City's new Director of Community and Economic Development and who will also serve as Executive Director of the Easton Redevelopment Authority and the Executive Director of the Greater Easton Development Partnership.

Mrs. Ferrante said that she was happy to be with the City and looked forward to working with Council and the City Administration.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles the following item was adopted by the following vote:

Bill 20, (Ordinance 5500) Amending Section 560-72, Meters, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which amended the parking meter times for meters in City parking facilities, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)
Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that a Finance Committee was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 and related what had been discussed. He spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding declaring the City's intention to incur debt, authorizing the City to loan money to the Easton Redevelopment Authority, approving an Agreement for Site Preparation with Herpel's Auto & Truck Lifts, and for authorizing the Administration to grant the Heritage Day Committee a \$5,000 grant to be used towards the 2015 Heritage Day celebration.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that a Main Street Downtown Merchant's roundtable meeting would be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at Chee burger Chee burger.

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Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that because of work commitments she would not be able to attend the July 21st and 22nd Council Committee and Council meetings.

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting had been held on June 23, and related that the monthly Fire report and Fire Service billing had been discussed.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding authorizing the Administration to apply for a Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic development grant, and for authorizing the Mayor to sign a TE-160 Department of Transportation Form for pavement marking changes on Ferry Street at S. 3rd Street.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending numerous sections contained in the Code to change the name of the City Treasurer to the Director of Finance and the Treasurer's Office to the Finance Department, and for amending the 2015 Salary and Wage Resolution to create a new Field Inspections Supervisor position in the Bureau of Codes.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the random act of violence perpetrated in the City and in the Lehigh Valley over the weekend where three innocent persons were shot and killed, and said that one of the victim's family had nothing but praise for the City's Police Department and their actions. He spoke further about this matter.

Mayor Panto also spoke regarding the setting up of a meeting for the committee to review the Rental Licensing program and the Code ordinances for Tuesday, August 11, 2015.

Mayor Panto said that Ethics Training has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2015, and reminded everyone of the events happening, in the City, on July 10, 11, and 12, 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following Correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) Peter Kohler, letter regarding Parklets.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

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NEW BUSINESS

Bill 21, Amending Sections 56-5 Daily deposit of monies received, and Section 56-10, Authorized signatories of Chapter 56, Finance of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which would remove the words City Treasurer and Treasurer and replace them with the Director of Finance or their designee, was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill 22, Amending Section 110-21 B, of Chapter 110, Pensions, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which would remove the words City Treasurer and replace them with the Director of Finance or their designee, was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill 23, Amending Section 285-16 D, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the Codes of the City of Easton, Pa., which would remove the words City Treasurer and replace them with the Director of Finance or their designee, was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill 24, Amending Sections in Chapter 422, Plumbers, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which would remove the words City Treasurer and replace them with Director of Finance or their designee and Department of Finance, was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill 25, Amending Sections in Chapter 427, Police Services Cost Recovery, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which would remove the words Treasurer of the City and replace them with Director of Finance.

Bill 26, Amending Sections in Chapter 515, Streets and Sidewalks, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which would remove the words City Treasurer and replace them with Director of Finance, was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill 27, Amending sections contained in Chapter 554, Trees, Shade, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which would remove the words City Treasurer and replace them with City of Easton and Department of Finance, was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill 28, Amending Section 560-77, Collection and disposition of fees and revenues, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which would remove the words Public Works and replace them with Finance, remove the words his or her and replace them with their, remove the words general revenue and replace them with parking authority and remove the words City Treasurer and replace them with Director of Finance, was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

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A July 1, 2015 memorandum, regarding a reimbursement Resolution for a Motors Garage Lift was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution in which the City declared its intention to incur debt in connection with the payment of the Cost of City Capital projects.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

118-2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

A July 1, 2015 memorandum, regarding Council Agenda items, was received from Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for a \$1.1 million grant for streetscape improvements to Centre Square and the ring road.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

119-2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

A July 1, 2015 memorandum, regarding a HUD 108 Loan payment was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the City to loan money to the Easton Redevelopment Authority, on a short-term basis, to pay the July 2015 HUD 108 Loan payment.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

120-2015

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The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Mayor to submit an application for Traffic Signal Approval

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

121-2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend the 2015 Salary & Wage Resolution which would create a position in the Bureau of Codes for a Field Inspection Supervisor with a salary of between \$50,000 to \$54,000.

Mr. Edinger introduced the proposed Resolution.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the need to establish the proposed position, the feelings of the Union on this position, the need for an Organizational Chart for the Codes Department, etc. between Mayor Panto, Council members and Mr. Steckman

After the discussion Mr. Edinger withdrew his introduction of the Resolution.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement for Site Preparation between the City and Herpel's Auto & Truck Lifts, for work at the Motors Garage at a cost not to exceed \$93,992.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

122-2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

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Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the City Administration to grant the Heritage Day Committee a \$5,000 grant to be used towards the 2015 Heritage Day celebration.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

123-2015

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

Terrence Miler, 645 Ferry Street, spoke regarding shots being fired throughout the City, said that he had forwarded a "White Paper" to the Mayor regarding Crisis Intervention, and said that he was a big proponent for crime reduction strategies, and said that the all of the citizens of the City had to work towards this, and offered his services to the City to help address this problem. He also reminded all that a rally would take place on Saturday, July 11, 2015 in the West Ward .

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p. m. on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk